



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2009

LCO No. 8898

HB0542508898HDO

Offered by:

REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

SEN. DOYLE, 9th Dist.

REP. JARMOC, 59th Dist.

REP. ABERCROMBIE, 83rd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5425

File No. 498

Cal. No. 319

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES."

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Subsection (a) of section 17a-3 of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
5 *passage*):

6 (a) The department shall plan, create, develop, operate or arrange
7 for, administer and evaluate a comprehensive and integrated
8 state-wide program of services, including preventive services, for
9 children and youths whose behavior does not conform to the law or to
10 acceptable community standards, or who are mentally ill, including
11 deaf and hearing impaired children and youths who are mentally ill,
12 emotionally disturbed, substance abusers, delinquent, abused,

13 neglected or uncared for, including all children and youths who are or
14 may be committed to it by any court, and all children and youths
15 voluntarily admitted to, or remaining voluntarily under the
16 supervision of, the commissioner for services of any kind. Services
17 shall not be denied to any such child or youth solely because of other
18 complicating or multiple disabilities. The department shall work in
19 cooperation with other child-serving agencies and organizations to
20 provide or arrange for preventive programs, including, but not limited
21 to, teenage pregnancy and youth suicide prevention, for children and
22 youths and their families. The program shall provide services and
23 placements that are clinically indicated and appropriate to the needs of
24 the child or youth in the least restrictive environment to the extent
25 possible within available appropriations. In furtherance of this
26 purpose, the department shall: (1) Maintain the Connecticut Juvenile
27 Training School and other appropriate facilities exclusively for
28 delinquents; (2) develop a comprehensive program for prevention of
29 problems of children and youths and provide a flexible, innovative
30 and effective program for the placement, care and treatment of
31 children and youths committed by any court to the department,
32 transferred to the department by other departments, or voluntarily
33 admitted to the department; (3) provide appropriate services to
34 families of children and youths as needed to achieve the purposes of
35 sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, and
36 17a-51; (4) establish incentive paid work programs for children and
37 youths under the care of the department and the rates to be paid such
38 children and youths for work done in such programs and may provide
39 allowances to children and youths in the custody of the department;
40 (5) be responsible to collect, interpret and publish statistics relating to
41 children and youths within the department; (6) conduct studies of any
42 program, service or facility developed, operated, contracted for or
43 supported by the department in order to evaluate its effectiveness; (7)
44 establish staff development and other training and educational
45 programs designed to improve the quality of departmental services
46 and programs, provided no social worker trainee shall be assigned a
47 case load prior to completing training, and may establish educational

48 or training programs for children, youths, parents or other interested
49 persons on any matter related to the promotion of the well-being of
50 children, or the prevention of mental illness, emotional disturbance,
51 delinquency and other disabilities in children and youths; (8) develop
52 and implement aftercare and follow-up services appropriate to the
53 needs of any child or youth under the care of the department; (9)
54 establish a case audit unit to monitor each area office's compliance
55 with regulations and procedures; (10) develop and maintain a database
56 listing available community service programs funded by the
57 department; (11) provide outreach and assistance to persons caring for
58 children whose parents are unable to do so by informing such persons
59 of programs and benefits for which they may be eligible; and (12)
60 collect data sufficient to identify the housing needs of children served
61 by the department and share such data with the Department of
62 Economic and Community Development."